

F B I

Date: 5/9/63

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PLAIN TEXT

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Via AIRTEL

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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-28)
 FROM: W.W. SAC, MEMPHIS (157-127) (P)

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
 PROTESTING SEGREGATION,
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
 RM

CC TO: Race Disc Force
 REQ. REC'D. 12/3/66
 LEC 16 1966
 ANS.
 BY: JSP MAP

Transmitted herewith are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth the information concerning racial demonstrations in Nashville, Tennessee, 5/8/63.

Since all information set forth herein was reported in local newspapers, dissemination not being made locally.

③- Bureau (Encl-8)
 2- Memphis
 FWN:nwc
 (5)

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD

MAY 14 1963

Date Forw.....

How Forw.....

By.....

EX-114
 REC-12
 157-6-28-304
 8 MAY 13 1963

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Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Memphis, Tennessee

May 9, 1963

**RE: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
PROTESTING SEGREGATION,
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS**

On May 9, 1963, Lieutenant SCOTTY LYNCH, Memphis Police Department, advised that there were a series of demonstrations by Negro students at Nashville, Tennessee, on May 8, 1963. The group was primarily made up of Negro high school students and some Negro college students and there were one or two white individuals who were participating in the demonstrations.

Lynch stated that the demonstrations consisted of groups of students meeting at the First Baptist Church, Eighth Avenue North and Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, and going from there to march in front of Cross Keys Restaurant, B and W Cafeteria and Wilson Quick Drug Store, and then going back to the church for more meetings and speeches. There was one march by the entire group through the downtown area. The students were carrying signs indicating that they were protesting segregation in Nashville, Tennessee, and were demonstrating in sympathy with the demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama. Lynch stated that the demonstrations were quiet and orderly throughout most of the day but during the afternoon a group of white teenagers gathered in the downtown area and began to throw rocks and eggs at the demonstrators. He stated that there was some resistance to this and that there was one incident of a scuffle between a Negro demonstrator and a white heckler resulting in the arrest of the two of them.

Lynch stated that seven Negroes were arrested for failure to follow instructions of the police and creating disturbances and two white hecklers were arrested.

304

He stated that the two scuffers were slightly injured when they fell through a glass sign but no serious injury was sustained by anyone.

*TENN
TEXAS*

The "Nashville Tennessean," a daily newspaper published in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 9, 1963, quoted a spokesman for the Nashville Christian Leadership Council as stating that the purpose of the demonstration was to express sympathy for Birmingham Negroes and to point out that all is not well in Nashville. The paper also stated that Billie Sollestes, described as a "bankrupt promoter," made a speech to the group of students at the First Baptist Church, stating "If America does not mean integration we should give the Indians back their land and pray for forgiveness for taking their land."

Listed as having been arrested are the following:

[redacted] - loitering.

[redacted] - disorderly conduct by refusing to obey an officer.

[redacted] - interfering with an officer.

[redacted] - disorderly conduct and simple assault.

[redacted] - simple assault.

[redacted] - charge not shown.

b6
b7C

[redacted] - address not shown.

[redacted] - address not shown.

Nashville Tennessean

The paper did not list the identity of the ninth person arrested.

The information from Lieutenant Lynch was furnished

to Colonel Jack Kelley, 111th INTC Group, Nashville,
Tennessee, May 9, 1963.

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